

AN T-ÓGLÁC

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BLOW FOR BLOW.

The issue is now clearly knit between the people of Ireland and the British Army of Occupation. Since the Irish Volunteers established the Irish Republic in Easter Week, 1916, they have always recognised that an open state of war exists between them and the Army of England, and all their activities have been based on an acceptance of that principle. The policy of those whom the Volunteers have placed at the head of the organisation has been based upon a recognition of this fact. Irish Volunteers have considered themselves and acted as the soldiers of the Irish Republic engaged in open warfare with the forces of the foreign usurpation. The whole Irish people have now formally and officially endorsed this attitude. They have declared by vote their acceptance of the Irish Republic as the authority claiming their allegiance; they have constituted that authority in tangible form by their election of an Irish Republican Parliament. A constitution has been adopted, an Executive Government appointed; and the Government and Parliament of the Irish Republic have formally recognised the existence of a state of war between the Irish Republic and the English invader. That being so, the Irish Volunteers, the Army of Ireland, becomes for the time being the most important and essential national service of the moment and must remain so until the British Army of Occupation is withdrawn or expelled from our country.

One result of the present state of affairs is that the English enemy has been forced to discard the pretences with which he sought to deceive the world and also to recognise the state of war which exists in Ireland. The farcical pretence at a semblance of "government" on the part of the enemy has had to be abandoned, and all his actions in Ireland are openly those of an invading enemy. In tearing the mask of hypocrisy from the face of England, the Irish Volunteers have done good service to Ireland. Thanks to their

clear, courageous, unfaltering devotion to the Irish Republic established with their blood in 1916, the web of sophistries, pretences and political machinations with which England strove to delude Ireland and the rest of the world has been broken through. The political weapons which England once employed with such effect against Ireland have been broken in her hands; she has now only her military weapons to fall back upon; and Ireland too has military weapons. The issue is clearly knit and the Irish Volunteers wait the result with cheerfulness and confidence but with inflexible and deadly determination to hold out till the final victory.

The statements of British Ministers to the British Parliament in regard to Ireland frankly admit the collapse of their political machinery in that country, the futility of their political manoeuvres, and their reliance solely on military force. This was the note sounded by Mr. Ian Macpherson in what we presume may be taken as an official pronouncement of the enemy Government. The threats which this man uttered to Ireland leave us as unmoved as his abuse. One thing, however we will say, that while as has been often shown, we are able to restrain ourselves and wait patiently for our opportunity, while all efforts of the enemy to goad us into hasty and ill-considered action will fail; yet we have no intention of suffering in silence or slothfulness any fresh outrages of the enemy against Ireland. In answer to Macpherson's threats we say that we are prepared to give blow for blow.

For every outrage on the liberties and lives of the subjects of the Irish Republic those responsible will in due time be made to pay. One piece of military wisdom which Irish Volunteers have learnt and always practised is to choose their own time and place for striking, and not to let the enemy choose them for us. We are still, so to speak, "in the trenches," but our "trench raids" and active operations against the enemy are growing more and more frequent and are usually attended with brilliant success.

A number of dashing achievements in recent times stands to the credit of the Irish Volunteers—indeed hardly a day passes without some daring and successful raid on the soldiers or police of the enemy, who have been deprived of their weapons.

The clear knitting of the issue between the enemy and ourselves is bound to harden the tone and temper of the people of Ireland and react favourably upon the zeal and energy of the Irish Volunteers. Everybody in Ireland now realises that under the present condition of affairs they are the most important and essential branch of national service of the Irish Republic. As the President of the Republic has declared, they are Ireland's right arm in the struggle. At the latest public session of the Dáil the responsible Minister announced that the Army of Ireland was now stronger than ever before, and that whenever they were wanted the Volunteers were ready. The executive powers of the Government of the Irish Republic will largely depend upon the Irish Volunteers, who represent an armed, disciplined, organised force for making their will effective. If the enemy seeks to intimidate the Irish people by military or police outrages, the Volunteers will know how to protect the citizens of the Irish Republic and make their assailants pay dearly for it. We will see, in the long run, who will be intimidated—the Irish people or the agents of the English enemy in our midst. This is a time especially for firm government on the part of the Irish Republic; and we think we can confidently expect that the present Executive, through the instrumentality of the Irish Volunteers, will deal sternly and promptly with any outrages against its loyal subjects on the part of the agents of the pretended English "Government" in this country.

GENERAL NOTES.

It is necessary once again to urge upon Volunteer officers the absolute necessity of prompt and regular payment for the various issues of "An tOglách." The money should be forwarded to H.Q. through the proper channels punctually. Delay or neglect with regard to this matter increases the amount of records to be kept, and, consequently, the danger of discovery.

The perturbation caused in the minds of the enemy by the continued vigorous existence of "An tOglách" and the clear and determined tone in which it voices the ideas and feelings of the young manhood of Ireland is very striking.

An English Minister in the English Parliament delivered a long harangue on the relentless hostility to English rule which existed in Ireland, basing his case on elaborate quotations from "An tOglách." In declaring our unalterable hostility to the enemy occupation of Ireland and our determination to resist it and fight our enemy whenever and however the opportunity arises by every means in our power and with every weapon at our disposal, "An tOglách" voices the ideas not only of the heads of the Irish Volunteers but of every courageous and patriotic man and woman in Ireland. It is the free authentic voice which Irish patriotism possesses, for it laughs at the British Censorship even as Volunteers laugh at British "Courts," civil or martial.

Since the dashing achievement at Collinswood Aerodrome the British sentries on guard there at night have been suffering badly from "nerves." One result of their nervousness has been that several harmless donkeys and goats straying in the neighbourhood have at various times been shot in mistake for "raiders."

Ireland lost a gallant soldier in Robert Byrne who was deliberately murdered by an enemy policeman while lying in bed in Limerick Workhouse, recovering from the effects of a hunger-strike. The murderer has paid the full penalty. The attempt to rescue Byrne from the hands of the enemy was a daring one, and was technically successful. Volunteers will mourn the loss of a brave fellow-soldier whose life was a model of that courage, loyalty, discipline and efficiency which we are accustomed to associate with the soldiers of Ireland.

From the Ministerial Statement of Policy by President de Valera, the publication of which in the Press was prevented by the British Censor, we extract the following:—"The Minister for National Defence is, of course, in close association with the voluntary military forces which are the foundation of the National Army."

Discipline is the very life-blood of the Volunteers—not the dead, soulless discipline of an Imperial Conscript army, but the intelligent self-sacrificing spirit of discipline which is essential to such an Army as ours. It is the business of the Volunteers to make themselves an efficient machine for the service of Ireland. In an organisation working under the peculiar conditions of Ireland's Army, the mechanical discipline of regular armies is difficult of attainment; but all attempts to introduce into Volunteer circles an atmosphere of contention or insubordination should be sternly discontinued. Breaches of

discipline are offences not merely against one's superior officer but against Ireland, in whose cause we are enlisted. The effect for evil of even minor breaches of discipline or acts of insubordination may be far-reaching in the extreme.

Tá a lán Éireannach do ghaibh le hArm Shasana le héan-chorp díeille agus mithuigsióna tar éis teacht abhaile arís, agus iad scaoilte ón arm agus go breun díobh féin. Tuigid siad an botún agus an feall do dheineadar nuair do ghabhadar páirt le hArm na nGall. Tá fonn ar chuid mhaith aca cabhrú lesna hOgláigh. Ba cheart go bhfeudfaí úsáid a dheanamh díobh ar mhaithe le hÉirinn. Ba cheart go bhfeudfaidís cabhrú linn chun gunnaí agus piléir agus gleusa eile dfhagháil. Ba cheart go bhfeudfaidís cabhair a thabhairt do chuid d'oifigigh na nOglách i gcúrsaibh teagaise is taitheighe.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

ORGANISATION NOTES.

System of Transferring Volunteers to Other Companies.—A great deal of confusion, amounting in some cases to serious harm, has been caused by Company Officers accepting men in their Companies on the mere statement that such men had been members of Volunteer Companies in other districts.

In actual practice it has been found that in the majority of instances where men appear in strange districts without the official Volunteer transfer, they are undesirables of one type or another.

It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that Company Officers should understand their duty in this matter of transfers.

No man may be admitted to a Volunteer Company in a strange district unless the Company Officer receives notice in the manner prescribed below. In this connection it is necessary to emphasise the importance of notifying the Superior Officer in every case where a Volunteer leaves his own district and takes up residence elsewhere. It is only by doing this with all care and efficiency that the system can be properly worked, mobilisation lists kept up-to-date, and all Volunteers at all times kept in touch with some unit.

1. Mode of Procedure.—On leaving his Company district to reside for any lengthy period in another Company district (whether it be in the same Battalion or Brigade or in another Battalion or Brigade), a Volunteer must make immediate application to his Company Officer (and in the case of an Officer to his Superior Officer) for

a transfer at the same time stating precisely his new address.

2. When the transfer is to a Company in the same Battalion, it must be made through Battalion Headquarters, and when to a Company in the same Brigade, but not in the same Battalion, it must be made to Brigade Headquarters through Battalion Headquarters.

3. Transfers necessitating a change from one Brigade to another, can only be accepted through General Headquarters.

NOTES ON TRAINING.—The service rifle is built for four conditions—Level sight, still air, barometer pressure 30 in., thermometer 60 deg. F. The first of these level sights has been dealt with in a previous issue. The second forms the subject of our present article. Wind is judged by miles per hour and is usually taught in the first instance by means of flags.

A ten mile wind gives sufficient motion to keep a flag at an angle of 45 degrees from the pole. Thirty mile wind keeping the flag at a right angle to the pole, but without the appearance of violence. Thirty mile wind gives a violent motion to the flag, and at a distance gives the appearance of being stationary.

The following table will give an idea of the alteration necessary for the different rates of wind:—

Range.	Wind blowing per hour—		
	10 Miles	20 Miles.	30 Miles.
200	6 in.	9 in.	12 in.
300	15	29	25
400	20	30	40
500	30	45	60
600	42	63	84

Another list—

Range.	10 Miles	20 Miles.	30 Miles.
200	2 ft.	4 ft.	6 ft.
1000	3 yds.	6 yds.	9 yds.
1500	6 yds.	12 yds.	18 yds.
2000	12 yds.	24 yds.	36 yds.

For oblique wind half the above table.

Wind blowing from the firer less elevation.

Wind blowing from the target more elevation.

So the bullet may strike the object aimed at, take a correct sight, then pass the sight off the target into the direction from which the wind is blowing sufficient to allow the wind to carry the bullet on to the object aimed at; in fact lateral elevation men should be taught to do this from judgment and not make use of the wind gauge which some rifles are fitted with.

The use of flags should be dispensed with at the earliest opportunity, and the men should

judge from the motion of trees, grass, or other natural objects, so that they may get to active service conditions as quickly as possible.

Constant practice is necessary, and now that the evenings are lengthening men should get into the country and do as much as they possibly can, discussing their experience among themselves, for this is the only road to efficiency.

In the case of damp weather or ascending heights, the barometer falls and less elevation is necessary, due to reduced resistance to the flight of the bullet, consequently certain reductions are made to meet the changed conditions, the rule being, for every inch the barometer falls below 30 inches, $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards per 100 yards of range is taken off, therefore if the range is 1000 yards and the barometer 29 inches the sight would be set at 980 yards.

Formula—100 yds, range, 1000; rate, $1\frac{1}{2}$; 10, 15.

As the barometer falls about 1 inch for every 1000 feet we rise above sea level the necessary reduction per 100 yards of range at 3000 feet altitude would be the difference between 30 in., the condition for which the rifle is built and 27 in., the actual condition. Multiplied by $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds. = $4\frac{1}{2}$ yds. per 100 yds. of range—

100	1000	$4\frac{1}{2}$
		—
		45

range 100 yds., sight fixed 955.

When the barometer rises add as the denser atmosphere gives greater resistance to the bullet.

When the thermometer rises a reduction is necessary owing to the warmer atmosphere offering less resistance. For every degree the thermometer rises above 60 degrees 1-10 yards per 100 yards is deducted; when the thermometer stands at 70 degrees and the range is 1000 yards the sight would be set at 999 yards.

100	1000	1-10 yds.
		10

difference between 50 and 80 deg.

—

1-10

—

10

Thermometer, 40 degs.; barometer, 31; range, 2000.

2000

40 yds. added for fall of temperature.

—

2040

30

—

2070 yds. added for rise in barometer.

When the barometer rises add.

When the barometer falls subtract

When the thermometer rises subtract.

When the thermometer falls add.

ENGINEERING NOTES.—The railway and telegraph line having been cut, attention should next be directed to the destruction of minor parts, and of locomotives and rolling stock.

1. Points and crossovers should be removed.

2. Water-tanks should be destroyed, and, if it can be located, the water main should be cut.

3. Signals, signal-cabins, running sheds, and repair shops should be destroyed.

4. Rolling-stock, passenger coaches, and freight vans may be burned, and, if opportunity affords, two trains may be run against each other at full speed.

5. Regarding Locomotives.—(a) The injector may be removed; if this can be done an engine is left useless. The injector cannot easily be described in these notes without the aid of a diagram. Officers must instruct themselves in this matter locally.

(b) The safety valve may be removed.

(c) Stone or other hard substances introduced into the cylinders through the blast-pipe, which is directly under the funnel. The door of the smoke-box should first be opened. This is a circular door in front of the engine which can be seen by anyone facing the engine. In the centre of this door is a wheel and handle. The wheel should first be slacked and the handle then turned to a horizontal position. Round the edge of this door will be seen a few clips, these are to be loosened, and the door can then be opened, exposing the blast pipe, a vertical pipe connected to both cylinders, and about 3 inches internal diameter.

Half a dozen handfuls of stones, nuts, etc., should be thrown down this pipe and the door replaced.

6. Various small fittings may be removed, such as the pressure gauge, safety valve, etc., and the gauge glasses may be broken. The brasses at big end may be removed and disposed of, and emery may be introduced into the oil cup of cylinder at big end. This is to be done by taking out the wick of oil cup, and the tube through which it passes should be cleaned of oil by passing through it a pencil covered with a piece of cloth. The emery can then pass freely through.